

This monthly press review covers Eurafrican migration control, migration and displacement in African countries and news on the European border regime. In case there is a news item, report, or campaign you would like to flag for in next month's review please write us to [migr-contr@ffm-online.org](mailto:migr-contr@ffm-online.org) or on Twitter @MigControl.

## NEW ON MIGRATION-CONTROL.INFO

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**Repost on the Blog** [EU Border Externalization in the Central Mediterranean: The Implementation of a System of Forced Return to Libya](#) by the **CivilMRCC**: The **CivilMRCC** is a network of different non-governmental actors and individuals with Search And Rescue experience in the Mediterranean and functions as a coordination and documentation platform for people in distress in the Central Mediterranean Sea. Every two months, it publishes the "Echoes From the Central Mediterranean". We repost an article from July's edition on our blog.

## CENTRAL AFRICA

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**Chad** 23.11.22: Al Jazeera: [Chadian soldiers killed in attack by 'shadowy' Boko Haram](#): "The attack took place near Ngouboua in the Lake Chad area, a vast marshy region shared by Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria that has been battered by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) armed group."

**DRC** 23.11.22: Al Jazeera: [African leaders agree on 'immediate ceasefire' in eastern DRC](#): "An East African regional force will intervene against the M23 fighters in case of noncompliance, said the statement signed by the leaders of DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola, and by former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who has mediated the crisis."

## EAST AFRICA

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**Ethiopia** 16.11.22: FP Africa Brief: [Ethiopia's Other War](#): "Fighting between the Ethiopian army and rebel forces have intensified in recent weeks in Ethiopia's Oromia region just

as a peace deal between the federal government and Tigrayan leaders is being put in place in the north of the country. The recent clashes have been condemned by rights groups, which warn that the conflict in Tigray has overshadowed the need for peace negotiations in Oromia.”

*See also* 04.11.22: Al Jazeera: **Analysis: Can Ethiopia iron out issues after AU peace deal?**; 03.11.22: NYT: **Details in Ethiopia’s Peace Deal Reveal Clear Winners and Losers**

## NORTH AFRICA

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**Algeria/Niger** 18.11.22: InfoMigrants: **'We were abandoned in the desert at 2 am': Migrants expelled from Algeria to Niger**: The pushbacks from Algeria to the so-called Point-Zero in the Nigerian desert continue. Mehdi Chebil reports for InfoMigrants about the ongoing human rights violations that especially sub-Saharanians face in the region.

**Egypt/EU** 31.10.22: Reuters: **EU funds border control deal in Egypt with migration via Libya on rise**: “The European Union signed an agreement with Egypt on Sunday [30.11.22] for the first phase of an 80 million-euro border management programme [...]. The project [...] provides for the procurement of surveillance equipment such as search and rescue vessels, thermal cameras, and satellite positioning systems, according to an EU Commission document published this month.” The first 23 million-euro phase of the project will be implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and CIVIPOL.

*See also* 27.10.22: Refugees Platform in Egypt: **EU funding for the Egyptian Coast Guard (Strengthening a Partnership That Violates Human Rights)**; 02.11.22: FP Africa Brief: **What Caused Egypt’s Economic Tailspin?**

**Sudan/Israel/EU** 30.11.22: Haaretz: **Flight of the Predator: Jet Linked to Israeli Spyware Tycoon Brings Surveillance Tech From EU to Notorious Sudanese Militia**: “A cross-continental investigation uncovered a network of firms connected to Tal Dilian, ex-commander of a top secret Israeli intel unit, who has bought up an array of sophisticated surveillance technology and established an EU foothold in Greece and Cyprus.” It is about high-end surveillance technology, made in the European Union, with the potential to tip the balance of power in Sudan thanks to its capacity to turn smartphones into audio-visual informants on their owners. When news of its arrival reached Hemedti’s rivals the equipment was seen as so dangerous that an RSF commander speaking on condition

of anonymity said it was smuggled out of Khartoum to the militia's stronghold in Darfur to prevent its seizure by the army.

## WEST AFRICA

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**Burkina Faso** 26.11.22: Clingendael Institute: **Echoes of the Sahel**: "In Burkina Faso, on Friday hundreds of **protesters took to the streets to demonstrate against France**. The French Embassy and French military base in Kamboinsin were among some of the places targeted. In part response, the Prime Minister released a statement the next day questioning the loyalty of international partners in the fight against regional insurgencies. Elsewhere, the continuation of the French-led Task Force Sabre was called into question. Amidst a stormy picture, the French presence and influence in the region continue to be overtly challenged."

**Burkina Faso** 25.11.22: MSN: **Burkina Faso recruits over 90,000 'volunteers' to reinforce fight against jihadism**: "Burkina Faso authorities have indicated that the recruitment campaign for 'volunteers' to reinforce counter-terrorism operations have resulted in more than 90,000 registrations, amid deteriorating security in the country due to the expansion of jihadist networks. [...] The Burkinabe military authorities indicated at the launch of the recruitment process that the objective was to enlist 15,000 'volunteers' at the national level and another 35,000 at the community level to fight against jihadist groups."

**ECOWAS** 15.11.22: Arise News: **ECOWAS to Dedicate Massive Resources Towards Combating Terrorism, Political Instability in West Africa**: "Speaking at the opening of 32nd Meeting of the ECOWAS Administrative and Finance Committee (AFC) in Abuja on Monday, the President of ECOWAS Commission, Omar Touray revealed that 2023 community budget will focus on action plans against terrorism, political stability among its four strategic objective plans."

**Ghana** 06.11.22: Al Jazeera: **Ghana protesters say Akufo-Addo 'must go' as inflation worsens**: "Consumer inflation topped 37 percent in Ghana in September while the cedi currency has lost more than 40 percent of its value this year. Hundreds of protesters have marched through Ghana's capital, Accra, calling for the resignation of President Nana Akufo-Addo amid an economic crisis that has seen fuel and food costs spiral to record levels."

**Mali** 01.11.22: Guardian: Russian mercenaries accused of civilian massacre in Mali: “At least 13 civilians were killed on Sunday in the region of Mopti by Malian troops supported by “white soldiers”, local elected officials and an official of a community association told the Agence France-Presse. Fighters from the Kremlin-linked Wagner Group arrived in Mali late last year after a lucrative deal was struck with its new military rulers.”

*See also* 03.11.22: Al Jazeera: Russia to send \$100m in food and fuel to Mali, minister says

**Mali/Germany** 22.11.22: Politico: Germany to withdraw troops from Mali in 2024: “Germany will next year begin withdrawing its troops stationed in Mali for a U.N. peacekeeping mission, the Berlin government said Tuesday, amid rising Islamist activity and Russian military presence in the West African nation.”

*See also* 16.11.22: taz: UN-Truppensteller geben auf (UN troop contributors give up)

**Niger** 17.11.22: Le Journal de l’Afrique: Niger: Mohamed Bazoum's infidelity to Emmanuel Macron: “The partnership with Moscow is so “beneficial” that it deserves to be continued. This, in summary, is the position of the Niger authorities regarding military cooperation with Russia. Last Tuesday, the Minister of National Defense of Niger, Alkassoum Indatou, received the Russian ambassador to Niger, Igor Gromyko, and the head of the Russian military mission in Niger.”

**Niger/EU** 31.11.22: German Foreign Policy: Die letzte Bastion im Kriegsgebiet (The last bastion in the war zone): “After its failure in Mali, the EU is preparing a military operation in Niger. The president of Niger has so far cooperated closely with the West, but Moscow's influence is now growing in his country as well.”

## WEST ASIA

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**Syria** 22.11.22: Al Jazeera: Erdogan threatens Syria ground operation ‘as soon as possible’: “We have been bearing down on terrorists for a few days with our planes, cannons and guns,’ Erdogan said in a speech on Tuesday. ‘God willing, we will root out all of them as soon as possible, together with our tanks, our soldiers.’ Erdogan has made similar threats in the past six months, but cross-border air raids on Sunday have heightened the possibility that a bigger military operation may occur.”

*See also* 22.11.22: The Guardian: How airstrikes by Israel, Turkey and Russia denote a new era in Syrian war

## EUROPE

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**France** 09.11.22: BBC: France calls time on anti-jihadist Operation Barkhane in Sahel: The French President Macron has formally ended France's decade-long operation to fight Islamist insurgents in the Sahel.

**Germany** 24.11.22: taz: Zeitenwende in Zeitlupe (Turning point in slow motion): "The 'traffic lights coalition' wanted to end Seehofer's hard line. But little happened for a long time. Now some new laws are coming."

**Mediterranean** 26.11.22: Tagesschau: Streit zwischen Paris und Rom schwelt weiter (Dispute between Paris and Rome continues to smolder): "In Brussels, the special meeting of EU interior ministers on the refugee issue ended without concrete results. France had accused Italy of serious violations of international law."

*See also* 28.11.22: Mixed Migration Centre: Italy migration diplomacy: hanging out with the wrong crowd?; 24.11.22: Statewatch: Mediterranean migration plan underpinned by more policing and border enforcement in repressive states including the EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean; 06.11.22: taz: Flüchtlingspolitik in Italien: Worte härter als Taten (Refugee policy in Italy: words harsher than deeds); 05.11.22: Al Jazeera: Nearly 1,000 migrants stranded on board NGO ships as storm hits

**Poland** 18.11.22: The First News: Poland switches on electronic surveillance at border fence with Belarus: "Poland has activated the first section of its 206-kilometre long border fence with Belarus that is fitted with electronic surveillance equipment." According to the Polish Minister of Interior, the equipment will be installed along the entire length of the fence by the end of the year.

*See also* 28.11.22: Codastory: Along the Poland border with Belarus, 'we will never know how many people died'

**Slovakia/Czech Republic** 15.11.22: schengenvisa.info: Slovakia & Czechia: EU's External Borders Must Be Strengthened: "The Prime Minister of Slovakia, Eduard Heger, and his Czech counterpart, Petr Fiala, have said during a meeting in Prague that the external

borders of the European Union must be strengthened, and have reiterated that the protection of the Hungarian-Serbian border remains crucial.”

**Spain/Morocco** 29.11.22: El País: Reconstructing the truth about the migrant deaths on the border of Morocco and Spain’s Melilla: “The investigation shows how authorities in Spain and Morocco reacted to a crowd surge that left people in need of help in both countries. Moroccan officers kept firing tear gas into a dead-end compound and responded with brutality. The Spanish agents, meanwhile, did not assist the victims of the pile-up, despite the fact that the Guardia Civil helicopter was filming events as they unfolded.”

**Sweden** 11.11.22: schengenvisainfo: Sweden Prolongs Internal Border Controls for 6 More Months: “Sweden will continue to carry out border checks on travellers entering its territory from other Schengen Area countries, for at least another six more months, until May 11, 2023. The same were set to expire today, on November 11.”

**UK/France** 14.11.22: BBC: UK strikes revised deal with France on Channel migrants: “The UK will pay France £8m more a year under a revised deal to try to stop people crossing the English Channel in small boats. [...] It will cover: investment in drones, night vision equipment, and CCTV in French ports to try and prevent crossings, funding for detection dogs at ports to identify people trying to enter the UK in lorries, investment in reception and removal centres in France. UK observers will be embedded in French control rooms, and French observers embedded in UK control rooms, to help inform each other’s deployments.”

*See also* 18.11.22: calais.bordermonitoring.eu: Verharren im Calais-Format (Persisting in Calais format); 12.11.22: calais.bordermonitoring.eu: Frontex verlängert Einsatz am Ärmelkanal (Frontex extends operation at the English Channel)

**UK/Albania** 25.11.22: taz: „Es ist wie eine Krankheit“ ("It's like a disease"): “Thousands of Albanians are migrating to Great Britain. Migration researcher Dhimiter Doka speaks about the reasons.”

*See also* 13.11.22: Al Jazeera: Tens of thousands of Albanians protest over rising costs

## EUROPEAN UNION

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**EU/Libya** 09.11.22: Matthias Monroy: **After years of EU funding: Maritime emergency centre in Libya „not operational“**: In response to a parliamentary request by a Member of the European Parliament, the High Representative and Vice-President of the EU Commission, Joseph Borrell, said that Libya's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) is "not operational". The MCRR has been funded and equipped by the EU for years.

**EU/Libya** 30.11.22: The Guardian: **European politicians accused of conspiring with Libyan coastguard to push back refugees**: "NGO alleges 'crimes against humanity' in complaint to international criminal court: High-profile European politicians, including the EU's former foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Italy's current and former interior ministers and the current and former prime ministers of Malta, have been named as the subjects of a criminal complaint at the international criminal court alleging they conspired with Libya's coastguard to illegally push back refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea into Europe."

**EU/Western Balkans** 25.11.22: ECRE: **Balkan Route: Attempts to Reach EU Continue as the Council Seeks to Expand Frontex Presence in the Region, Croatia Closer to Schengen Amid Continued Violations, Trilateral Agreement to Increase Border Control**: "Meanwhile, the Council of the European Union announced on 18 November the opening of negotiations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia "to broaden agreements on Frontex cooperation" under the framework of "border management". These new agreements with the four Western Balkan non-EU countries will allow the agency to assist these countries "in their efforts to manage migratory flows, counter illegal immigration and tackle cross-border crime throughout their territory".

*See also* 16.11.22: SZ: **Nichts wie raus aus Griechenland (Let's get out of Greece)**; 07.11.22: taz: **Pushbacks von Ampel mitfinanziert (Pushbacks co-financed by Traffic Light Coalition)**; 31.10.22: Statewatch: **Tracking the Pact: EU seeks to seal off Balkan Route with expanded Frontex deployments**

## REPORTS

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11/22: **CivilMRCC: [Echoes From The Mediterranean Issue 3](#)**: “In “Echoes”, the bimonthly publication of the CMRCC, significant aspects of [Search and Rescue] in the Central Med are reflected upon, current topics discussed, analysis and research presented and the self-organized struggles of refugees and migrants highlighted.”

18.11.22: **Human Rights Watch: [“No One Asked Me Why I Left Afghanistan”. Pushbacks and Deportations of Afghans from Turkey](#)**: The report “says that Turkey has stepped up pushbacks and deportations to Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover there in August 2021. Human Rights Watch also found that Afghans inside Turkey are being blocked from registering for international protection and that Afghans facing imminent deportation are often given no opportunity to make refugee claims.”

08.11.22: **NYT: [A New Refugee Crisis Stirs Uncomfortable Issues for Europe](#)**: “With Russia waging war on its doorstep, Europe has taken in 4.4 million Ukrainians this year, in addition to more than 365,000 first-time asylum applicants, many fleeing threats in Syria and Afghanistan. That is more even than in 2015, which stood out as the landmark period of migration in contemporary European history, when 1.2 million refugees fleeing wars in the Middle East arrived, the bulk of them in Germany. The country’s former chancellor, Angela Merkel, encouraged their welcome with her now-famous line: “We can do it.” But how Europe will do it again this time is raising nettlesome questions about the distribution of refugees — and their uneven treatment — while heightening concerns over the anticipated arrival of still more Ukrainians as temperatures drop and Russia intensifies its strikes on civilian infrastructure.”

24.11.22: **The New Humanitarian: [Sahel insurgency: What policymakers need to do differently](#)**: The state may be only one among many actors vying for control – and they may not even be the dominant one. Armed groups may exercise as much or even more influence. Armed group control is as much about controlling populations as territory. Indeed, armed groups often seek to control people before they seek to dominate territory. Enforcing the contours of what populations can and can't do permits control without a permanent presence.

28.10.22: **Washington Post: [Why are people in West Africa waving Russian flags?](#)**: “In my research, I explore how people living in areas where terrorist groups operate perceive Western military counterterrorism interventions. Between January and May 2022, I carried out 42 hour-long interviews with people who had either fled the conflict-affected zones in west Niger and are now based in regional capitals, or who were visiting a



regional capital for work. The interview group included pastoralists, farmers, chiefs, administrators and students. Alongside these qualitative interviews, I analyzed data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), which collects real-time data on all reported political violence and protest events around the world.”

## CAMPAIGNS

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**Book Alarm Phone: [Voices of Struggle. 8 Years Alarm Phone](#):** “Eight years ago, on 11 October 2014, we launched the Alarm Phone, a hotline for people in distress at sea. Since then, our shift teams are available 24/7 and have assisted about 5.000 boats in distress along the different maritime routes to Europe [...]. We dedicate this booklet to those who lost loved ones at the borders, to those who survived the border regime, and to those who are still struggling to overcome and subvert the many borders in their way.”

**Petition Stop Externalisation: [Greece must revoke the decision to consider Turkey a safe country](#):** On 7th June 2021, the Greek government decided to declare that Turkey is a safe third country for people seeking asylum from Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and Bangladesh, in addition to Syrians. The decision stands in continuation of the so-called EU-Turkey-Deal. 58 organizations from 22 European countries call for the revocation of Greece's decision, given it is unlawful, inhumane and unworkable.

*See also* our migration-control.info wiki entry about [Turkey](#)

**Donation Campaign Boza Fii: [Noël \(Christmas\) « Solid'Action »](#):** Boza Fii “support voluntary return migrants, migrants who have been deported to their country of origin and who face a total lack of assistance. We support the friends and families of those who have disappeared in the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and at the borders, in their painful search for answers. [...] This initiative, TDR Christmas "Solid'Action" of Boza Fii, aims to lend a hand to poor and destitute children who are weakened by the dramas of migration. It also participates in the educational, social and economic integration of the latter.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Action & Protest 09.-10.12.22, Headquarter of UNHCR in Geneva: [Refugees in Libya: From Tripoli to Geneva. Amplify the Voices of Refugees in Libya!](#):** “One year ago, thousands of refugees had been protesting for more than 100 days in front of the UNHCR office in

Tripoli: an historical act of self-organization under the harshest conditions.[...] To support Refugees in Libya in their fight and to amplify the voices of all those who keep getting ignored, punished, and unfairly treated by an agency that is supposed to protect them, we call for two days of action in front of the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on the 9th and 10th of December 2022.”